

***** UNCLASSIFIED / *****

Subject: 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY

Originator: /C=US/O=U.S. GOVERNMENT/OU=DOD/OU=NAVY/OU=ORGANIZATIONS(UC)/L=DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA/L=WASHINGTON/OU=CNO WASHINGTON DC(UC)

DTG: 141530Z May 12

Precedence: ROUTINE

DAC: General

To: /C=US/O=U.S. GOVERNMENT/OU=DOD/OU=NAVY/OU=ADDRESS LISTS(UC)/CN=AL NAVADMIN(UC)

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MSGID/GENADMIN/CNO WASHINGTON DC/N00/MAY//

SUBJ/70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY//

RMKS/1. AS WE MARK THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY, WE SHOULD NEVER FORGET THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CONFLICT TO OUR LEGACY. IN THE EARLY DAYS OF JUNE 1942 AND ONLY SIX MONTHS AFTER THE DEVASTATING ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, OUR NAVY SHAPED A DEFINING MOMENT IN HISTORY AND FORGED A PROUD CHAPTER IN OUR NAVAL HERITAGE. WITH COUNTLESS SELF-SACRIFICING EFFORTS, SKILL, AND THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF OUR SAILORS, OUR U.S. NAVY WON THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY (4-6 JUNE) DESPITE BEING AT A NUMERICAL DISADVANTAGE TO A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT. THIS STUNNING AND DECISIVE VICTORY ENABLED THE START OF A U.S. NAVY OFFENSIVE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS THAT SET THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES ON THE ROAD TO VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC.

2. THIS HISTORIC VICTORY AT MIDWAY CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO TRAITS THAT CONTINUE IN OUR NAVY TODAY: BOLD, CONFIDENT, AND PROFICIENT SAILORS WILLING TO GO INTO HARM'S WAY WITH WELL-BUILT, RESILIENT SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT. OUR SAILORS AND MARINES DEMONSTRATE THIS SAME WARFIGHTING ETHOS TODAY AS THEY FACE UNIQUE AND DEMANDING CHALLENGES, ON LAND AND AT SEA, OPERATING FORWARD, FULLY READY AROUND THE GLOBE. THIS LEGACY IS BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF VETERANS, LIKE THOSE AT MIDWAY, WHO HAVE BLAZED THE TRAIL BEFORE US.

3. LET US NEVER FORGET THESE BRAVE VETERANS AND THEIR LEGACY. THEY SHAPED WORLD EVENTS FOR MANY YEARS AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO, FOR IT IS IN OUR DNA. AS NAVY PROFESSIONALS, IT IS UP TO US TO PRESERVE AND CELEBRATE OUR RICH HISTORY, KNOWING THAT UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST WILL EMPOWER US TO OVERCOME FUTURE CHALLENGES.

4. NEXT MONTH COMMANDER, U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND, COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET (COMPACFLT), COMMANDER, NAVAL INSTALLATIONS COMMAND, AND MANY OTHERS WILL EXECUTE MIDWAY COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS AROUND OUR NAVY. IN THE PACIFIC, SIGNIFICANT EVENTS INCLUDE AN 11-STAR COMMEMORATION AND WREATH LAYING ABOARD USS MIDWAY MUSEUM IN SAN DIEGO AND A COMPACFLT COMMEMORATION CEREMONY THAT WILL INCLUDE REMARKS BY RADM (RET) MAC SHOWERS, THE SOLE SURVIVING MEMBER OF ADM NIMITZ' INTEL STAFF. ADDITIONALLY, COMPACFLT WILL CONDUCT A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND COMMEMORATION EVENT AT MIDWAY, RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EPIC BATTLE AND TO HONOR SHIPMATES WHO

FOUGHT, SACRIFICED, AND TURNED THE TIDE IN THE PACIFIC. WITHIN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, I WILL HOST A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY 4 JUNE AT THE NAVY MEMORIAL. BY COMMITTING OUR TIME AND EFFORTS TO COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS SUCH AS THESE, WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND HONOR OUR OBLIGATION TO PRESERVE OUR INHERITANCE OF A RICH NAVAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE.

5. RELEASED BY ADMIRAL JONATHAN W. GREENERT, CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS.